127. To calculate the rate per acre from the figures shown in the above statement is by no means a safe course to arrive at the exact rate of assessment charged by the Forest Department, inasmuch as they only exhibit the actual sums realised during the year, while under the terms of agreement executed by cultivators some of the later instalments due on the land let to cultivation in one year do not become payable till the next, and at times some of the revenue remains unadjusted when a year terminates. At the close of the year under report, such sums aggregated Rs. 1,187-7-2. In the year 1895-96. an item of Rs. 424, levied as assessment on "kharif" lands, had not been accounted for by the Divisional Forest Officer, Sukkur, and that year's figure has consequently been altered from Rs. 811 to Rs. 1,235.

III.—Free grants of Forest produce.

Free grants.

128. The usual table showing the money value of the free grants of timber and other forest produce made to agriculturists, cattle-owners living within forest limits, as well as the people of villages in the vicinity of Forest Reserves is given below for two years :—

Division.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	Rs.	Rs.
Sukkur ...	689	1,019
Naushahro ...	287	231
Hyderabad ...	403	197
Jerruck ...	32	85
Total ...	1,411	1,532

129. The figures in the above statement often vary with the vagaries of the river and the number of fires that break out in a year in villages. The larger the number of huts or houses washed away or burnt, the greater is the demand for forest material. It is satisfactory to note that the orders on the subject of free grants, quoted under paragraph 126 of last year's report, were well attended to, and necessary precautions were taken to prevent unnecessary delay to grantees in the cutting and removal of the material sanctioned in their favour.

130. There is yet another advantage which the coupe contract system of working has been the means of affording to Forest population, inasmuch as the coupe agreement provides that the contractor has no claim to the small materials consisting of branches, tooth brushes, shoots or wood of any sort five inches or less in girth at the thickest part, and that he is not to interfere with the villagers who may be permitted by a Forest Officer at any time after the commencement of felling to cut and remove the said small materials for firewood or fencing from the coupes. The area under exploitation being more or less evenly distributed, such material is available in sufficiently large quantities to meet the daily requirements of the people, and is allowed to be removed free of charge without requiring any preliminary formalities to be observed.

IV.—Produce removed by right-holders and under privileges.

Free grazing.

131. The following statement compares the number of cattle which grazed free in the forests of this Circle as well as the value of grazing enjoyed by them:—

Division.	Number of Cattle.		Value of grazing.	
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
			Rs.	Rs.
Sukkur ...	18,268	16,264	25,360	21,327
Naushahro ...	8,266	8,329	3,276	3,850
Hyderabad ...	72	58	19	88
Jerruck ...	1,168	1,536	832	2,367
Total ...	27,774	26,187	29,487	27,632

132. The statement prescribed in Government Resolution No. 2872, dated 12th April 1897, at the instance of the Inspector General of Forests is given below :—

Division.	Agency by which material removed.	Material removed.								Total.	Average outturn per square mile of all forests.			
		Timber.		Fuel.		Total Wood.		Minor produce.	Grazing.		Timber and fuel.		Minor produce.	Grazing.
		C. ft.	Value—Rs.	C. ft.	Value—Rs.	C. ft.	Value—Rs.	Value—Rs.	Value—Rs.	Value—Rs.	C. ft.	Value—Rs.	Value—Rs.	Value—Rs
Sukkur ...	Government ...	1,623	524	45,819	619	47,442	1,143	198	...	1,341				
	Purchasers ...	1,23,790	13,535	70,90,221	66,250	72,14,011	79,785	1,957	18,683	1,00,425				
	Free grants ...	6,729	950	1,148	12	7,877	962	57	...	1,019				
	Right holders ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,327	21,327				
	Total ...	1,32,142	15,009	71,37,188	66,881	72,69,330	81,890	2,212	40,010	1,24,112	16,154	182	5	89
Naushahro ...	Government ...	...	...	6,091	498	6,091	498	...	...	498				
	Purchasers ...	25,120	5,114	8,77,221	19,111	9,02,341	24,225	1,681	9,549	35,455				
	Free grants ...	2,208	220	...	...	2,208	220	11	536	767				
	Right holders ...	...	...	1,71,281	1,586	1,71,281	1,586	900	3,314	5,800				
	Total ...	27,328	5,334	10,54,593	21,195	10,81,921	26,529	2,592	13,399	42,520	4,345	107	10	54
Hyderabad ...	Government ...	...	119	...	2,266	...	2,385	51	...	2,436				
	Purchasers ...	1,17,095	28,577	64,56,843	34,398	65,73,938	62,975	18,823	17,072	98,870				
	Free grants ...	1,044	128	5,940	50	6,984	178	10	88	285				
	Right holders ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
	Total ...	1,18,139	28,824	64,62,783	36,714	65,80,922	65,538	18,893	17,160	1,01,591	35,381	352	102	92
Jerruck ...	Government ...	20	36	26,293	722	26,313	758	33	...	791				
	Purchasers ...	89,770	8,148	30,97,249	23,233	31,87,019	31,381	3,149	13,166	47,696				
	Free grants ...	956	85	...	...	956	85	...	206	291				
	Right holders ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,161	2,161				
	Total ...	90,746	8,269	31,23,542	23,955	32,14,288	32,224	3,182	15,533	50,939	17,469	175	17	84
Total Sind Circle.	Government ...	1,643	679	78,203	4,105	79,846	4,784	282	...	5,066				
	Purchasers ...	3,55,775	55,374	1,75,21,534	1,42,992	1,78,77,309	1,98,366	25,610	58,470	2,82,446				
	Free grants ...	10,937	1,383	7,088	62	18,025	1,445	87	830	2,362				
	Right holders ...	...	...	1,71,281	1,586	1,71,281	1,586	900	26,802	29,288				
	Total ...	3,68,355	57,436	1,77,78,106	1,48,745	1,81,46,461	2,06,181	26,879	86,102	3,19,162	16,994	193	25	81

Summary of produce.

133. The different descriptions of produce removed from the forests are summarised below :—

Description of material.	Sukkur Division.	Naushahro Division.	Hyderabad Division.	Jerruck Division.	Total.
Timber ... ... C. ft.	1,32,142	27,328	1,18,139	90,746	3,68,355
Fire-wood and Charcoal ... ,,	71,37,188	10,54,593	64,62,783	31,23,542	1,77,78,106
Babul and other seed ... Mds.	1,078	...	738	651	2,467
Babul bark ... ... ,,	...	...	6	...	6
Lac ... ... ,,	...	...	3	...	3
Dab grass ... ... ,,	686	...	...	...	686
Tooth brushes ... ... ,,	...	...	206	83	289
Sar reed ... ... Bdls.	...	...	...	...	...
Kanh grass ... ... ,,	62	80	954	...	1,096
Thorns ... ... ,,	...	14,400	...	...	14,400
Jhau brush wood ... ,,	741	2,051	182	179	3,153
Branches of trees ... Ft.	55,720	497	...	...	56,217
Do. ... Cart loads.	201	...	...	...	201